

Abstract

**A METHOD OF DETERMINING THE SYNTACTIC CORRECTNESS OF
EXPRESSIONS**

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10 The present invention is a method (100) of determining the syntactic correctness of an
expression for use in a computing environment. After creating (30) a string of characters
from said expression, it looks for substrings (character sequences), which are legitimate
and replaces (54) them with a shorter but semantically equivalent substring. It also looks
for character sequences which are illegitimate, and replaces (54) them with a substring
(i.e. "?") to indicate that it has met with an illegal sequence. It does these operations
repeatedly, and in predetermined sequences, till no further changes in the string can be
15 made; that is, the string achieves a constant length. An expression is determined to be
syntactically correct only if said string reduces to a single predetermined character.

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